

Shanghai's Bund to go dark as China heatwave prompts power cuts

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Shanghai will switch off decorative lights and video screens on its famed Bund riverfront to save power.

Shanghai will switch off decorative lights along its famed Bund riverfront for two days from Monday, city authorities said, in response

to a nationwide heatwave that has sent power demands soaring.

Multiple provinces have announced power cuts to cope with a surge in demand, driven partly by people cranking up the air conditioning to cope with temperatures as high as 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit).

China has been hit by [extreme weather](#) this summer, including record temperatures, [flash floods](#) and droughts—phenomena that scientists have warned are becoming more frequent and intense due to [climate change](#).

To save power, Shanghai authorities said in a notice Sunday that they would switch off "landscape lighting" at the Bund, the city's most famous landmark.

Ornamental lights, billboards and [video screens](#) on both sides of the Huangpu River would be turned off on Monday and Tuesday, according to the notice.

The heatwave has reduced stretches of the Yangtze River, China's most vital inland waterway, to unprecedented drought levels, according to official data.

That has resulted in [high pressure](#) on [hydroelectric plants](#) that supply power to some of the country's key economic zones.

In the southwestern megacity of Chongqing, home to 31 million, authorities on Monday declared that all shopping malls must only operate between 4:00pm and 9:00pm daily to cut power costs until the "temperature and supply-demand situation" changes.

The city last week announced industrial power cuts lasting until Wednesday and reduced scenic lighting at [tourist attractions](#).

In neighboring Sichuan, authorities on Sunday extended industrial power cuts and activated their highest level of emergency response to deal with the heatwave.

"Since July this year, the province has faced the most extreme high temperatures, the lowest rainfall in the corresponding period in history... (and) the highest power load in history," local authorities said.

Some of the world's biggest automakers—including Japanese giant Toyota and Elon Musk's Tesla—operate factories in Sichuan.

The province is also home to parts manufacturers that are crucial to global auto supply chains.

Many major factories were forced to halt work because of the Sichuan power cuts, which were supposed to end on Saturday but were extended to Thursday, Chinese news outlet Caixin reported.

Analysts have warned that Sichuan's power woes could have ripple effects on the wider Chinese economy and international supply chains.

Hydropower generated in the province supplies domestic consumers and factories, but also industrial powerhouse provinces Jiangsu and Zhejiang.

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